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RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC

## CONFIDENTIAL ZAGREB 000622

## SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/01/2018 TAGS: <u>PREL UNSC GG RU HR</u>

SUBJECT: CROATIA WILL SUPPORT US AND EU POSITIONS ON

GEORGIA AT UNSC

Classified By: Rick Holtzapple, POLCOUNS, Reasons 1.4 B/D

(C) Post delivered reftel points on the morning of August 28 to Neven Mikec, Chief of Staff to the Foreign Minister; and Ankica Vlasic, Minister Plenipotentiary in the North America Department of the MFA. Mikec noted that on August 26, after Russia's decision to recognize the independence of South Ossetia and Abkhazia, the Croatian government had made a statement reaffirming Croatia's support for Georgia's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. Both the Foreign Ministry and Prime Minister Sanader himself have stated publicly that Croatia would continue to coordinate and harmonize its position on this issue with the EU and NATO. Mikec took careful notes of the REF B and C points regarding the upcoming UNSC session on Georgia, and said that Croatia was firm in its intention to continue to support US and EU positions in the Security Council. Mikec added that Croatia also fully understood and agreed with the U.S. arguments of why there should be no link between events in Georgia and Kosovo's independence. Bradtke